



Free Lions

THE ENGLAND FANZINE FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

ISSUE 165



THE FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS'
FEDERATION



MONTENEGRO V ENGLAND
25TH MARCH 2019

IT'S THE **NOISE**, *the passion*,
THE FEELING OF **BELONGING**,
THE PRIDE **IN** YOUR CITY.

..... IT'S A SMALL BOY

CLAMBERING **UP** **STADIUM STEPS**

THE FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS
FEDERATION



gawping at that **HALLOWED**

STRETCH
OF TURF **BENEATH HIM**

AND, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO

..... DO A THING ABOUT IT,

falling in love

- SIR BOBBY ROBSON

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF **FREE LIONS** **165**

...the **free** England fanzine
produced and distributed by
the **Football Supporters'**
Federation (FSF) as part of
our **Fans' Embassy** service.

Montenegro v England

Stadion Pod Goricom, Podgorica
Monday, 25th March 2019
Kick-off 20:45, local time
England will probably
play in **WHITE**



Useful Numbers

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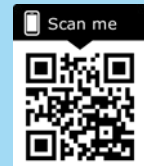
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1, Ashmore Terrace
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SR2 7DE

AND welcome to Podgorica,
for our third game here
in eight years. Given that
Montenegro has only been an
independent nation in footballing
terms since 2007, drawing them in
three qualifying campaigns since
then must make us one of their
most regular international visitors.

With the number of original
applicants for tickets outnumbering
the eventual allocation by more than
four to one, there was always going
to be a lot of people disappointed
in the ballot process, and as a
consequence there'll be a fair few of
us here without tickets. In
these pages we've tried to
provide information to make
sure that everyone who's
travelled here has as good
an experience of the country
and the city as possible. As
is always the case to some
degree, there'll be information that
wasn't finalised as went to press,
or that evolves while we're here,

so keep an eye on our Free Lions
social media updates for the latest
information – and of course you
can always ask one of our volunteer
team, or contact us around the clock
via the (confidential) helpline on
+44 7956 121314.

We're required to have ID with us
at all times while we're here, and it
looks like we will certainly need it to
get into the ground, but please keep
a close eye on it, as you'll be needing
that passport to get home, and
getting replacement documentation
isn't easy. If you do encounter any
problems on that front, let us know
and we'll put you in contact
with our excellent and
extremely helpful friends at
the British Embassy here. You
can also access their travel
advice for Montenegro via
this clever QR code...



Have a great time, and remember,
we're here to help if you need us.

COVER STORY

Having made his debut in a man-of-the-match performance
against Germany at Wembley in November 2017, **Ruben Loftus-
Cheek** came into 2019 already with 10 England senior caps to his
name and in great form, without yet having established himself
as a regular in the Chelsea side.



IT WASN'T ME

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for the contents of, nor the views expressed in,
this fanzine.

THANK YOU

As ever, this fanzine has been a team effort. This
edition was edited by Kevin Miles, and thanks
are due to Phil Rowley, Clive Hetherington,
Joe Hetherington, Harpreet Robertson, Tony
Connifford, Adrian Roberts, Ana Stojovic-Jankovic,
Peter Daykin and Helen Precious.



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THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON

ENGLAND'S qualification for the Nations League semi-finals was secured against a rousing Wembley backdrop that confirmed the feel-good factor engendered at last summer's World Cup has endured.

Gareth Southgate's side are now embroiled in Euro 2020 qualifiers before returning to Nations League business with a last-four tussle against Holland in Guimarães in Portugal on June 6.

The other semi will be contested 24 hours earlier between hosts – and reigning European champions – Portugal and Switzerland in Porto, with the final also there on June 9. A third-place play-off will be played the same day in Guimarães.

England performed with great gusto as they topped Nations League Group A4, winning 3-2 away to Spain and beating Croatia 2-1 at Wembley where they had to come from behind.

That was after losing 2-1 at home to Spain in their opening game, while they drew 0-0 in Croatia in a game played behind closed doors due to sanctions against the hosts.

The victory over Croatia, courtesy of captain Harry Kane's late strike, provided a degree of pay-back for the World Cup semi-final defeat to the same opponents in Russia.

A nerve-shredding November encounter saw substitute Jesse

Lingard draw England level after Andrej Kramaric had given Croatia a scarcely-deserved lead, one that looked like it might relegate Southgate's men from the group.

But it was Croatia themselves who ended up suffering the drop as England pulled off a dramatic recovery that enthralled Wembley.

Former England right-back and Sky Sports pundit Gary Neville declared: "England were really impressive the way they fought back. There's no short-cut for England to get back to where they were in the summer with that World Cup semi-final.

"But, step by step, they just have to grow all the way to the next tournament. Beating Croatia at Wembley was a big moment because the ultimate disappointment of what happened in the summer carries.

"But to recover from it and play top-class opposition in Spain and Croatia, and win the group was a great team effort. I think it tells you a lot about the team and



obviously the spirit because there were times in the second half when Croatia were the better team when England scored.

"But we could have been two goals up at half-time and I don't think Croatia would have complained. The game had a lot of the same pattern as last summer in terms of them hanging in there, showing resilience, getting a goal and getting stronger, but at Wembley we bit back and that's the development.

"Gareth would have thought about where the game changed. Well, we

>> CLIVE'S VERDICT

Prediction: Montenegro 1 England 3

England have never lost to Montenegro, but boast only one victory over them in their four meetings and are yet to win in the former Yugoslav republic. The Three Lions' two visits, for a European Championship qualifier

in October 2011 and a World Cup preliminary in March 2013, ended in respective 2-2 and 1-1 draws. A hostile atmosphere can be expected, but England should break their win duck in these parts.

>> MONTENEGRO – THE KEY THREE by Joe Hetherington



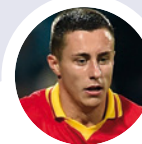
STEFAN SAVIC

The former Manchester City defender has been struggling with injuries of late after having a successful career since leaving the Etihad Stadium in 2012, becoming a regular in Fiorentina's backline before moving to Atletico Madrid, his current club. The 28-year-old won his first international cap in 2010 while he was playing for Partizan Belgrade of Serbia, and he has amassed a half century of caps since then. The centre-back, who joined City for £6million, was considered something of a liability during his spell in England, but his performances in recent years have attracted the notice of numerous Champions League sides.

came back at them at Wembley and we were able to finish stronger in a game that didn't matter as much, but it was still an important step for England."

Neville singled out centre-back John Stones for praise. He said: "Stones had that experience in the summer when Mario Mandzukic nipped in behind him to score.

"Where Stones has to get to in the next two to four years in tournaments is by developing at Manchester City in a partnership with Aymeric Laporte. Pep Guardiola



ADAM MARUSIC

More than capable of playing anywhere on the right, tenacious Marusic has become an important player for Lazio despite his poor disciplinary record. The 26-year-old started his professional career in Serbia at Vozdovac and then moved to Belgium, playing for Kortrijk and Oostende. He transferred to Serie A in 2017 and helped Lazio win the Supercoppa Italiana the same year, coming on as a substitute in the 3-2 victory over Juventus. Marusic's first appearance for his country came against Russia in 2015 in a game that was suspended after goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was hit on the head with a flare.

is putting him into big games and he now just needs to cut out that little mistake he makes."

By virtue of winning their Nations League group, England are already guaranteed a play-off place in Euro 2020 qualifying, but the hope – and expectation – is that they won't need to go down that route.

A top-two finish from a qualifying group which features our opponents here, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Kosovo, is clearly well within the Three Lions' reach.



STEFAN MUGOSA

With their nation's top scorer, Stevan Jovetic, having had an injury-ravaged season, Montenegro will be looking to Mugosa for goal threat. The 27-year-old did not impress in his three years playing in Germany, where he failed to score a league goal for 1860 Munich, though he has recently found a rich vein of form for both his country and his current employers, Incheon United of South Korea. Since making his debut in 2014, the imposing forward has scored against Turkey and twice facing Poland, and he also managed a brace in the 4-1 win in Lithuania last year in the Nations League.

Neville believes the new Nations League format has potential, but still requires a few tweaks: "They have to develop this concept of a Nations League. I think it's the right principle. The Spain game here was fantastic. Now we have qualifiers and then the Nations League semi-finals in June.

"I think UEFA need to make more of it, develop it, and they could be on to something. We're always very critical of organisations and associations for creating meaningless tournaments, but this seems to be something that might work."

SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS MONTENEGRO MUSIC QUIZ

Scouse Phil has provided us with a Montenegrin-themed music quiz for our entertainment – Montenegrin-themed in the tenuous sense that all the questions are based around the year 2006, which as we all know is when Montenegro achieved its independence.



Question 1:
Sandi Thom



Question 5:
Nelly Furtado

1 What did Sandi Thom wish she was in the title of her Number One hit in this year (2006)?

2 Shakira teamed up with Wyclef Jean for which single that held the Number One spot twice this year?

3 Which boy band secured the Christmas Number One this year with the song 'Patience'?

4 Gnarlz Barkley had the best-selling single this year in the UK charts, but what was it called?

5 Nelly Furtado had a Number One this year with 'Maneater', but what nationality is she: Canadian, Australian or New Zealander?

6 Which 2005 X Factor winner had the first Number One in 2006 with the song 'That's My Goal' and went on to appear as Aidan Connor in Coronation Street?

7 Dutch house DJ Fedde Le Grand was asking us to put our hands up for which US city in the title of his Number One hit?

8 Which American band had the Number One single 'Welcome to the Black Parade': Fall Out Boy, Panic at the Disco or My Chemical Romance?

9 What was the musical genre of the song with which the Finnish band Lordi won this year's Eurovision Song Contest, the first time this genre of song had won the contest?

10 Which English band this year released the album 'Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not', the fastest selling debut album ever by a band?

Answers can be found on page 13

FSF FANS' EMBASSY

THE FSF's Fans' Embassy will be based on the edge of Republic Square, on the street called Slobode – the main street between the ticket collection point and the ground.

We will be operating on the afternoon of **Sunday 24th March**, and then all day (between **10:00** and **17:00**) on match day, **Monday 25th March**. We are also available to help with any advice, information and support that you might need via the **24-hour helpline** on **+44 7956 121314**.



WELCOME TO PODGORICA

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO THE MONTENEGRIN CAPITAL

WELCOME to Podgorica, almost exactly six years since we were here last, on the road to qualification for the World Cup in Brazil.

Podgorica is a small capital city of a small but proud young nation, with a population of around 150,000, almost a third of the country's total. Between 1946 and 1992, when the then **Socialist Republic of Montenegro** was part of federal **Yugoslavia**, the city was known as **Titograd**. As **Yugoslavia** began to break up, the old name was restored; **Montenegro** became completely independent (after a few years as part of **Serbia and Montenegro**) as a result of a referendum in May 2006.

The city sits at the confluence of two rivers, the **Moraca** and the **Ribnica**, and the old town, where most of our time will be spent, is compact and laid out largely in a rectangular grid pattern which should prove easy enough to navigate. Most of the new development of the city seems to be taking place to the west of the old town, across the landmark **Millennium Bridge**.

The city's buses cost around €0.40 per journey, with tickets purchased on board, but we'd expect most England fans will get around either on foot or by taxi. Taxis are generally both cheap and reliable – make sure the meter's on at the start of any journey.



TICKET COLLECTION

AS is now standard practice at England away games, all ESTC members are required to collect their own tickets in person at the FA's ticket collection point; for this game members will also be issued with wristbands which will also be required to be worn in order to access the England sector of the ground.

Ticket collection for this game will be on match day only, between the hours of **11:00** and **19:45** (that's up until an hour before kick-off).

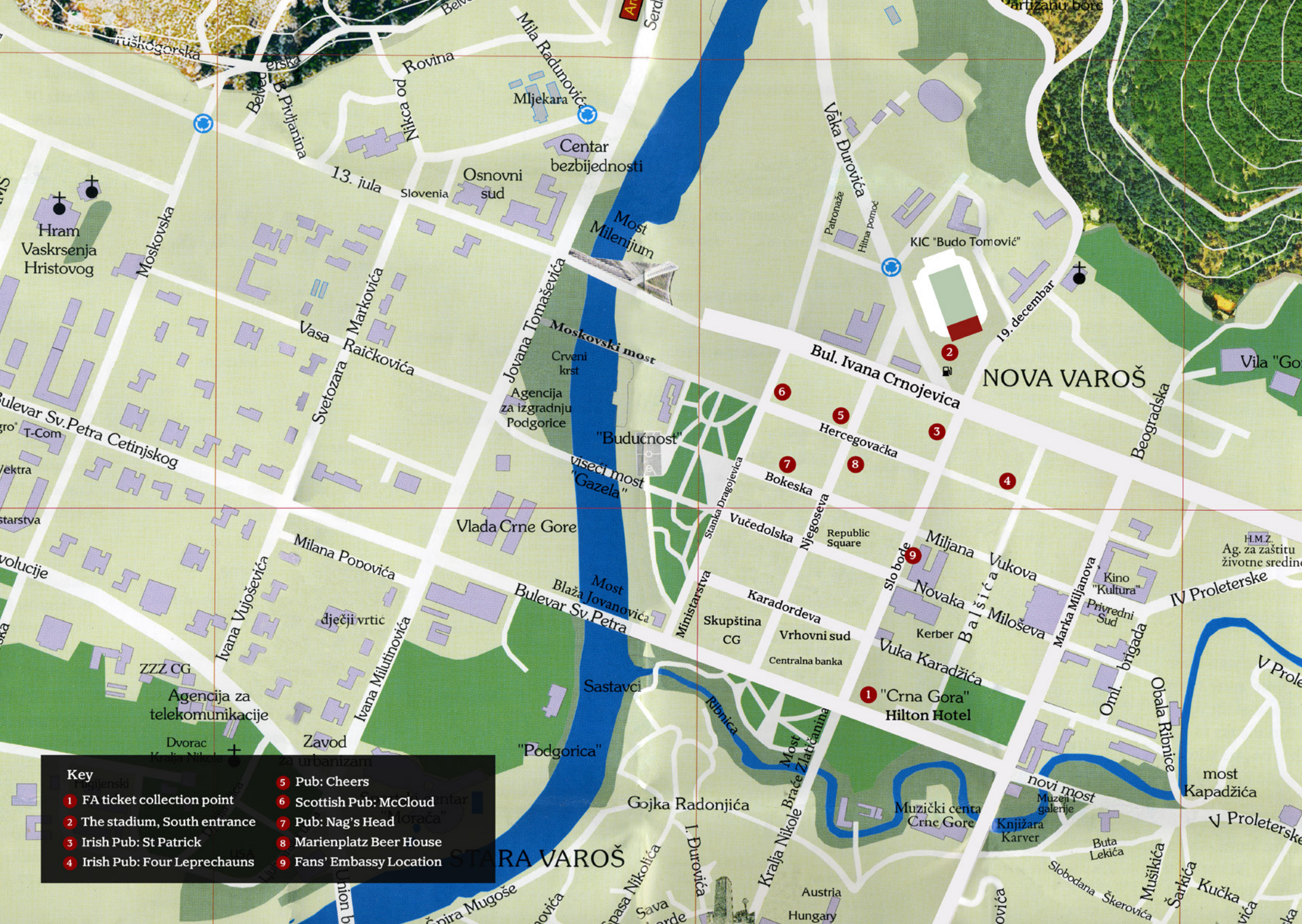
The location of the ticket collection point is at the **Hilton Podgorica Crna Gora hotel** (pictured), at **2 Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog**,



Podgorica 81000; entry is to the right of the main hotel entrance as you look at it, between that and the casino.

As the location of the ticket point is so close to the ground (it's about a ten minute walk away), there will on this occasion be no separate collection facility at the stadium.

Remember, everyone has to collect their own ticket, and you'll need photo ID (ESTC membership card, passport, driving licence etc). It will speed things up if you know the name of the ESTC member under whose name your group's tickets were booked.



Key

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 FA ticket collection point | 5 Pub: Cheers |
| 2 The stadium, South entrance | 6 Scottish Pub: McCloud |
| 3 Irish Pub: St Patrick | 7 Pub: Nag's Head |
| 4 Irish Pub: Four Leprechauns | 8 Marienplatz Beer House |
| | 9 Fans' Embassy Location |

WELCOME TO PODGORICA

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO THE MONTENEGRIN CAPITAL



THE STADIUM



THE Podgorica City Stadium, or Stadion Pod Goricom as the locals know it, is located near to the centre of the old town, in a residential area, at the foot of a hill at the edge of the Suma Gorica park. It is within a fairly easy walking distance of everywhere in the old town, no more than ten minutes from the ticket collection point.

The stadium was built in 1945, originally with a capacity of around 5,000. That ground burnt down completely in 1952, and was rebuilt with a capacity of 17,000, with floodlights added in 1989. There has been further modernisation, but this has resulted in a smaller capacity, with the total quoted for our fixture being 11,578.

The ground is home to club side **FK Buducnost Podgorica**, but also hosts all the home games of the national team, as it is the only stadium in Montenegro deemed to fulfil UEFA standards. The facilities are however

very basic, and anyone who was here in the deluge that accompanied the 2011 game won't need reminding that the top tier of our end is effectively uncovered, as the roof definitely didn't keep the rain off.

Montenegro's first international fixture after independence was a 2-1 friendly victory against Hungary held here in March 2007. Their first competitive fixture was a 2-2 draw in a World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria, also held here in Podgorica, on 6th September 2008, and they recorded their first competitive victory at home against Georgia in October 2009. The 2-2 draw they recorded against us in 2011 was regarded at the time by many home fans as their biggest achievement, securing as it did their place in the play-offs for the 2012 European Championships (which they subsequently lost, 3-0 on aggregate, to the Czech Republic). The 1-1 draw here two years later means of course that we have yet to beat Montenegro here.

GETTING TO THE GROUND

WHETHER you're going straight from picking your ticket up, or you've been for something to eat or drink, the best and easiest way to get to the ground will be to walk.

The old town centre of Podgorica isn't massive, and the walk from the southern edge, where the ticket collection point is at the **Hilton Hotel**, north to the ground, will take no more than 10 minutes. Chances are you'll be able to see the floodlights: the ground is at the top of **Slobode Street**.

FLAGS

THERE are no arrangements in place for early access to the ground to hang flags, so if you want to get a prominent spot for yours – and that's easier said than done – then the only answer is to arrive at the ground as the gates open, three hours before kick-off.

If you're planning on displaying your flag in the city centre through the day, be aware that a pastime of the local ultras is to try to nick them as a trophy, which then ends up being displayed upside down somewhere. If you want to keep yours the right way up, and take it home with you, keep a close eye on it.

GROUND RULES

KICK-OFF is scheduled for 20:45 local time, and the gates will open three hours before the game, at 17:45.

As was the case on our previous two visits here, the official England sector is located behind a goal, in the south stand, or **Tribina Jug**.



The ticket allocation for this game is based on the entitlement under UEFA rules of five percent of ground capacity, leaving us with 650 tickets. This is just over half of what have enjoyed on previous occasions, and so the area we will occupy is smaller, but we will still be located on both upper (**Galerija Jug**) and lower tiers of the stand, on the right-hand side as you look at the pitch, from the corner flag towards the goal.



The entrance to our end of the ground is very close to a residential

area, but the first ticket cordon will be further back near the main road, and from that point onwards the area is reserved for England fans. The stewards or police at this first cordon will be checking not only for tickets for the England sector, but primarily for the wristbands that the FA will be issuing to ticketholders along with their tickets.

Once inside this cordon, there is only one, fairly narrow entrance to our sector of the stadium, with only two turnstiles available to us. There is potential for this to become quite congested as kick-off approaches, so our usual advice to get to the ground in good time applies here too. At this point wristbands, tickets and ID will be checked.

One noticeable difference from last time is the thick netting that hangs down the front of the full width of the south stand; similar netting is fitted in front of the north stand too, the home sector occupied by the Montenegro Ultras. This is not particularly aimed at England fans, but is a consequence of a number of incidents involving missiles being thrown onto the pitch. At our first game here in 2011, Joe Hart was the target of missiles and flares at the north end of the ground, and in March 2015 the Montenegro v Russia game was held up for 33 minutes after the Russian goalkeeper was hit by a flare in the first minute, resulting in him requiring



hospital treatment. That game was subsequently abandoned on 67 minutes, when a Russian player was hit by a missile that led to a brawl involving players and staff.

There will be no alcohol on sale within the stadium. Those who might possibly have had a drink or two before reaching the stadium may want to note that the gents' toilet facilities available in our sector consists of seven individual urinals. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the stadium (unlike in many of the local bars and restaurants).

The usual list of prohibited items under UEFA stadium and security arrangements applies, with the size of flags limited to 2m x 1.5m, and the "new normal" maximum bag size of "no bigger than an A4 piece of paper". We have been told that bulkier items will be "confiscated" and placed in a van for collection after the game.

A decision will be taken on the day of the game as to whether or not England fans will be kept behind in our sector at the end of the game; announcements will be made in English over the loudspeakers, and any hold-back could last half an hour.



WELCOME TO PODGORICA

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO THE MONTENEGRIN CAPITAL

>> NOT GOT A TICKET?

WHEN the FA first asked us to register our interest in tickets for this game, around 2,700 ESTC members applied, which would have required more than a doubling of the ticket allocation we received back in 2013 to accommodate us all.



Instead, the actual allocation pretty much halved, in line with the recent UEFA rule change to reduce the away fan entitlement to 5% of capacity. Inevitably this will have meant a considerable number of people booking travel and accommodation in good faith, with a realistic expectation of getting a ticket, only to find ourselves unlucky in the ballot. Some will have cut our losses, or even managed to get a refund on flights or hotels, but there's bound to be a good number of people here without an official England ticket, wondering about the best way to enjoy the game.

And that's fair enough; being in **Podgorica** without a match ticket is not a crime, and we have plenty of experience of trips abroad when the match itself has not exactly been central to the enjoyment. So, what would Free Lions advise for those here without an ESTC ticket, and how do things compare to last time?

First of all, it is not an offence under Montenegrin law to purchase

a ticket on the black market. However, the stadium rules state "It is forbidden to enter area designated for rival fans", and of course in a game like this, unlike at a tournament finals, there's no such thing as a neutral sector: if you're not in our bit, you're in their bit.

Of course, there are still differences between the various stands: the **north stand** is where the Montenegro Ultras are based, and that offers quite a different match experience compared to say the **west stand**.

One thing that has subtly changed since last time is the declared policy of the host authorities towards England fans in home sectors.

Back in 2013, they told us that they would not as a matter of course prevent anyone from entering the stadium; this time their stated policy is "to prevent entry of English fans into other areas", something they intend to enforce by checking both tickets and ID on entry (Montenegrins are required by law to carry ID at all times).

One thing we would definitely caution against is trying to enter the official England sector either without a ticket, or with a ticket for another part of the ground. There are several reasons why this is not a great idea, the first of which is safety, in that our bit of the fairly dilapidated stadium is already sold out to capacity, and anyone else going in there by definition leads to overcrowding. Then there's the fact that it's likely to be difficult anyway; the planned policy is for stewards to check tickets (which will bear individuals' names) and passports on entry to the England sector too, and that's in addition to the FA-supplied wristbands.

It was stressed at the pre-match security meeting that stewards would not under any circumstances relocate England fans from other parts of the ground into the England end, and ESTC members who do try to get into our sector without an official England ticket will more than likely, if detected, end up being ex-members of the ESTC (and not get tickets for future games).

>> WHERE TO WATCH IT

THERE has been some discussion in the weeks leading up to the game about a big screen being set up somewhere for ticketless England fans, but at the time of Free Lions going to press nothing has been finalised – for the latest information you can contact the Fans' Embassy while we're in **Podgorica**.

Chances are that if there is something like that set up, it will be well away from the centre of the old town, and perhaps not the most attractive prospect. There are however quite a few bars and restaurants in the **old town** that will be showing the match on television (although not, necessarily, with commentary in English, but we think we can cope without that).

Bars that have indicated in advance that they intend to show the game include **Cheers**, **McCloud Scottish pub**, **St Patrick's Irish pub**, the **Marienplatz Beer House**, the **Nags Head** and the **Four Leprechauns pub**.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

MUCH of what we encounter in **Podgorica** will be very familiar to those who were here for either or both of our last two visits, but one noticeable difference is in the number – and quality – of bars and restaurants operating in the **old town**.

Of course some of the venues that proved popular last time are still going strong: the **Cheers pub** on the corner of **Hercegovačka** and **Njegoseva** is one example, and there is now another sizeable bar/restaurant, **Zeppelin**, directly across the road. Further down the same street (**Njegoseva**) is a good-sized Munich beer hall-styled bar called **Marienplatz**, and there are a couple of other decent places nearby. Then there are the usual venues which sincerely believe they are styled on English, Scottish or Irish pubs: you can probably work out which category of the above the **Nags Head** (on **Bokeska**), **McCloud** (on **Hercegovačka**),

Saint Patrick's (on **Slobode**) and the **Four Leprechauns** (on **Hercegovačka**) fall into.

There are a number of new restaurants in the **old town** in the streets around **Republic Square**; we didn't find a great variation in the menus, there's a lot of pizzas, kebabs and grilled meat about.

Away from the old town, and across the river, there are a number of hotels and bars/restaurants, the best of which are located in shopping malls such as **Delta City**, the **Mall of Montenegro**, and **Capital Plaza**; a trip by taxi will probably be required (unless of course you're staying in one of those hotels, in which case you're already there).



Quiz Answers

Football Quiz (P16)
 1. France 4 Croatia 2 2. Mario Mandžukić of Croatia
 in the 69th minute 3. John Stones with 2 goals
 4. Tranmere Rovers 5. Portsmouth 6. Declan Rice of
 West Ham United 7. Wembley Stadium 8. Oldham
 Athletic 9. February 10. Matt Le Tissier

Music Quiz (P6)
 1. A Punk Rocker (With
 Flowers in my Hair) 2. 'Hips Don't Lie' 3. Take That
 4. 'Crazy' 5. Canadian 6. Shayne Ward 7. Detroit (Put
 your hands up for Detroit) 8. My Chemical Romance
 9. Hard Rock – the song was called 'Hard Rock
 Hall of Fame' 10. Arctic Monkeys





GORDON BANKS RIP

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?

CONTACT CLIVE VIA FREELIONS@FSF.ORG.UK



WITH the sad passing of Gordon Banks, another precious link was lost to the greatest moment in England's football history.

Four who wore the Three Lions on that magical July day in 1966, when Sir Alf Ramsey's men won the World Cup by beating West Germany 4-2 after extra-time at Wembley, are no longer with us.

Captain Bobby Moore died in 1993 and Alan Ball passed away in 2007, both taken too young at 51 and 61.

The death of Ray Wilson last year, aged 83, has now been followed by that of Banks, regarded as England's finest goalkeeper, who was 81.

It is a national disgrace that only two members of the '66 team – Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Geoff Hurst, who scored a hat-trick in the final – have been knighted.

But when it is claimed that a Whitehall farce resulted in Banks' nomination for a knighthood being misplaced, the widely-held impression that the honours system bears comparison to a lottery is emphatically confirmed.

To true football folk, however, Banks will always be one of the gods of the game. It is safe to say he will be remembered as much – if not more so – for his "Save of The Century" against Brazil at the 1970 World Cup in Guadalajara

in Mexico as for being England's World Cup-winning keeper.

The miraculous stop from Pele's downward header in the 1-0 defeat by Brazil – Jairzinho later beat Banks – is one of football's most iconic images. Pele screamed "gol" as he connected with Jairzinho's right-wing cross, but he reckoned without Banks' outstanding agility.

As Banks recalled: "As soon as I got my hand to it, I thought it was going in the top corner. But after I'd landed, I looked up and saw the ball bounce behind the net and that's when I said to myself: 'Banksy, you lucky prat'."

Banks' modesty was in keeping with the nature of a man who came from humble beginnings in Sheffield, working as coal-bagger and hod-carrier before his football career was launched with Chesterfield.

A £7,000 move to Leicester in July 1959 was recognition of his promise, which was truly fulfilled in the most glorious fashion seven years later on a journey that witnessed 73 appearances for his country.

Peter Shilton, whose early career followed a remarkably similar path, was among those who paid warm tributes to a much-loved figure.

Shilton succeeded Banks as Number One at Leicester and ultimately with England, and then ended up joining Stoke where his idol's career on these shores was cruelly cut short after he lost the sight in an eye following a car crash in October 1972.

Shilton said: "Gordon was my hero when I was a youngster watching Leicester on the terraces and I eventually joined the club and became his understudy at 16.

"I trained with him for about a year and he was always helpful and always a gentleman. Leicester sold Gordon to Stoke and I took over but I was understudy to him in the England squad as well for a number of years. In that era, he was a great goalkeeper.

"Of course, when you have worked with Gordon, it's bound to rub off on you and I always admired his positional play. It was a different era for goalkeepers with different rules but it was still the same job – keeping the ball out of the net.

"He was the best around at the time. I obviously had other heroes, like Peter Bonetti, for example, but I got to know Gordon very well and he was a really nice fella. We had a friendship but we were rivals as well.

"I think all the '66 lads I met had that character about them, they were all decent fellas and all had something about them and Gordon was no exception.

"He could get angry on a few occasions on the pitch, but generally he was a nice fella and he was a really good professional."

And Shilton insists it was that professionalism which laid the foundation for THAT save from Pele. Shilton said: "As a youngster,



I always remember Gordon used to go on about training on Thursday afternoons, which was unheard of because there were no goalkeeping coaches, and I used to go and get the balls from behind the goal and throw them back.

"The thing was, Gordon worked very, very hard and he always used to go for every shot even if it was going wide – he wouldn't just stand there and say, 'Wide.'

And I think all that hard work paid off with that save. It was one where you just try to get across the goal as quickly as you can and not giving up on it enabled him to make the save which everyone remembers him for.

"It's not often you're remembered for saves as a goalkeeper, but obviously Gordon was for that one and that's there forever."

Controversy and conspiracy also raged as England's reign as world champions was ended by West Germany in the Mexican city of Leon.

After his keeper fell victim to what was dubbed "Montezuma's Revenge", Ramsey later said: "Of all the players to lose, it had to be him, it had to be Gordon Banks."

The stomach bug that laid Banks low forced Ramsey to call up Bonetti, who had an off-day of a different sort and bore much of the criticism for England's exit.

Shilton, who soon profited on the international stage from Bonetti's woe, reached the World Cup semi-finals with England 20 years later when they lost in a penalty shoot-out to West Germany in Italy.

He said: "We went very close in 1990, but '66 was obviously the highlight of Gordon's career and the other lads in the team.

"It was a World Cup where England played well and I think Gordon did what he had to do in that tournament. They won the World Cup and you can't do any better than win it on your own soil."



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MONTENEGRO SQUAD WORDSEARCH

It's a rare exception, but for once the England squad for this Euro2020 qualification double-header was announced before the Free Lions print deadline. To celebrate, we have hidden the players' surnames in the Wordsearch grid, purely so that you can amuse yourselves by finding them.

N U F C I N O S L I W T Y S I
W E N T L O F T U S C H E E K
N W T O B T L A Y D O K L N S
O R A C M A G U I R E C K E W
S W S L T E I L L A O H R G O
R Q E F K H K A N E D I A N K
E L N D I E D E I R N L B I R
D L O N R A R E D N A X E L A
N E T P B E A R D S L E Y R T
E W S R E I P P I R T J O E L
H L S I R L E S G A U Z H T A
P I C K F O R D S M B Z C S L
L H Z A V B S I L F R A N D A
E C S H E A R E R O K W A H S
D R O F H S A R I C E X S M B

Jack	BUTLAND	Stoke City
Tom	HEATON	Burnley
Jordan	PICKFORD	Everton
Trent	ALEXANDER	Liverpool
	-ARNOLD	
Ben	CHILWELL	Leicester City
Michael	KEANE	Everton
Harry	MAGUIRE	Leicester City
Danny	ROSE	Tottenham Hotspur
Luke	SHAW	Manchester United
John	STONES	Manchester City
James	TARKOWSKI	Burnley
Kieran	TRIPPIER	Tottenham Hotspur
Kyle	WALKER	Manchester City
Dele	ALLI	Tottenham Hotspur
Ross	BARKLEY	Chelsea
Fabian	DELPH	Manchester City
Eric	DIER	Tottenham Hotspur
Jordan	HENDERSON	Liverpool
Ruben	LOFTUS-CHEEK	Chelsea
Declan	RICE	West Ham United
Harry	KANE	Tottenham Hotspur
Marcus	RASHFORD	Manchester United
Jadon	SANCHO	Borussia Dortmund
Raheem	STERLING	Manchester City
Callum	WILSON	Bournemouth

Scouse Phil's Free Lions Football Quiz (answers on page 13)

- What was the score in the 2018 World Cup Final?
- ...and who scored the last goal in that final?
- Harry Kane famously won the Golden Boot, but who was England's second highest scorer in that tournament?
- Which English league team play their home games at Prenton Park?
- Which team who won the 2008 FA Cup Final is in the final of this year's Checkatrade Trophy to be held at the end of March?
- Which player named in the current England squad has previously been capped three times for Republic of Ireland?
- Where will the final of the 2020 European Championships be held?
- Ex-England international Paul Scholes was last month appointed manager of which League One side?
- The English Premier League is introducing a winter break in the forthcoming 2019-20 season, but in which month will it take place?
- I was born in Guernsey in 1968, played all my professional career for one club between 1986 and 2002 and shockingly only made 8 appearances for England, who am I?



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